

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the subject application as amended herein.

DRAWING OBJECTION

The Examiner has requested a drawing correction in order to show claim 4 elements. Without admitting the correctness of the request, Applicants have canceled claim 4 without prejudice, obviating any need for a drawing correction.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTION

The Examiner has objected to a lack of a space between "medium" and "18" on page 7 line 22, and requested appropriate correction. Applicants have made the appropriate correction.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to an informality in claims 1-11 because of a term in claim 1 lacking an antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct the lacking of an antecedent basis. No new matter has been added.

NEW CLAIMS 22 AND 23

Applicant has added independent claim 22 and depending claim 23 to the application. An element of claim 22 is a power source connected to the mesh-like substrate to supply electricity to the mesh-like substrate, whereby the material may be held within the hole by a charged attraction between the mesh-like substrate and the material. The Examiner does not comment (with respect to claim 9) where in Matsunaga the power source as recited by Applicant is described. Applicant is not able to find anywhere in Matsunaga where this power source is described. For at least this reason, claim 22 should be allowable.

Moreover, new claim 23 furthermore includes the element of the supplied electricity being capable of magnetically charging the mesh-like substrate, wherein the material is held within the hole by a magnetically charged attraction between the substrate and the material. Claim 23 should be allowable because of its dependency upon claim 22, as well as the additional elements it contains.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under §112. Applicant has canceled claim 4 without prejudice obviating this objection.

35 U.S.C. §102(a) REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,389,148 to Matsunaga (hereinafter Matsunaga). Applicant traverses.

Claim 1

Claim 1 defines a device for printing onto a medium comprising:
a mesh-like substrate having multiple holes;
each of said holes being configured to hold a material for application onto said medium, wherein said material is a solid;
a nozzle to expel a fluid to cause said material to be applied onto said medium if said fluid is expelled onto said material by said nozzle, wherein at least one of said nozzle and said substrate is maneuverable such that said nozzle may be disposed substantially directly over at least one of said hole at a time; and
wherein said nozzle is operable to expel said fluid onto said material to thereby cause said material to be applied onto said medium and thereby print an image on said medium.

In order to support a §102 rejection, a reference must describe every element of a claim, in the exact manner claimed. Claim 1 recites that the material is a solid. Matsunaga does not teach this, and instead, Matsunaga describes only holding a liquid. The Examiner submits that Matsunaga teaches that the material comprises a liquid or a solid (col. 3 lines 6-12). Applicants

respectfully traverse. The cited portion of Matsunaga refers to a melted substance, therefore a substance that is a liquid. In fact, as an example of a melted substance, Matsunaga, col. 6 lines 50-51, refers to "a melted substance ... used as the liquid." (underline added).

Moreover, Applicant's claim 1 recites "a fluid to cause said material to be applied onto said medium if said fluid is expelled onto said material by said nozzle." Matsunaga does not teach a fluid to cause a solid to be applied onto the medium if expelled by the nozzle onto the medium, as recited by Applicants.

The Applicants' respectfully submit that for any of these reasons claim 1 is patentable over Matsunaga. Applicants respectfully request that the §102 (a) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn and claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2, 3, and 5-9

Dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-9 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base claim 1, as well as for the additional elements they contain.

For instance, claim 9 recites the device according to claim 1, "further comprising a power source connected to said mesh-like substrate to supply electricity to said mesh-like substrate, whereby said material may be held within said hole by a charged attraction between said mesh-like substrate and said material." The Examiner does not comment wherein Matsunaga the elements of claim 9 are described. Applicant is not able to find anywhere in Matsunaga where the elements of claim 9 are described. Applicants respectfully submit that Matsunaga does not describe this element. For this additional reason, claim 9 is allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the §102(b) rejection of claims 2, 3, 5-9, and 11 be withdrawn, and claims 2, 3, 5-9, and 11 be allowed.

Claim 11

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 22, and therefore include the elements of claim 22. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the §102(b) rejection of claim 11 be withdrawn, and claim 11 be allowed.

Claim 12

In order to support a §102 rejection, a reference must describe every element of a claim, in the exact manner claimed. Claim 12 defines a method for printing onto a medium, said method comprising:

applying a material onto a mesh-like substrate having a hole, wherein said material is a solid;
filling a portion of said hole with said material; and
expelling a fluid from a nozzle at a substantially high rate of speed toward said material held within said hole, wherein said fluid is configured to contact said material and cause said material to be substantially forced out of said hole and applied onto said medium.

Claim 12 recites that the material is a solid. As described with respect to claim 1, Matsunaga does not teach this, and instead, Matsunaga describes only holding a liquid.

The Applicants' respectfully submit that for at least this reason this reason claim 12 is patentable over Matsunaga. Applicants respectfully request that the §102 (a) rejection of claim 12 be withdrawn and claim 12 be allowed.

Claims 13-16 and 18

Dependent claims 13-16 and 18 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base claim 12, as well as for the additional elements they contain.

For instance, claim 14 recites maneuvering the substrate such that certain portions thereof are placed under a supply bin to receive said material. Applicants are not able to find anywhere in Matsunaga where the elements of claim 9 are described. Applicants respectfully submit that Matsunaga does not describe this element. For this additional reason, claim 14 is allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that the §102(b) rejection of claims 13-16 and 18 be withdrawn, and claims 13-16 and 18 be allowed.

THE 35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTION

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunaga in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,205,320 to Fujii (hereinafter Fujii).

The Examiner has rejected claim 17 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunaga in view of JP60058866 to Hirano et. al. (hereinafter Hirano).

The Examiner has rejected claims 19-21 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunaga in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,964,158 to Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi).

Claim 10

The Applicant respectfully traverses the §103(a) rejection. Dependent claim 10 is allowable by virtue of its dependency on both respective base claim 9, and 1, as well as for the additional elements it contains.

Applicant recites the "device according to claim 9, wherein said supplied electricity is capable of magnetically charging said mesh-like substrate, wherein said material is held within said hole by a magnetically charged attraction between said substrate and said material." The Examiner submits that Fujii teaches a substrate having ink held in depressions when an

electric field is applied to the substrate, creating magnetic field. Arguendo that Fujii does so teach, Applicants recite that said material is held within said hole by a magnetically charged attraction between said substrate and said material. Applicant respectfully submits that Fujii nowhere teaches this. Moreover, Applicants traverse that Fujii describes a substrate having ink held in depressions when an electric field is applied to the substrate. Applicants respectfully submit that Fujii instead describes the ink being attracted into depressions (col. 6 lines 35-42), the depressions being undulations on the media to be printed on (col. 4 lines 20-22), and not the mesh like substrate as recited by Applicant.

Accordingly, for any of these reasons claim 10 is patentable over Matsunaga in view of Fujii. Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejection of claims 3 and 4 be withdrawn.

Claim 17

The Applicant respectfully traverses the §103(a) rejection. Dependent claim 17 is allowable by virtue of its dependency on base claim 12 as well as for the additional elements it contains.

For instance, claim 17 recites the method according to claim 12, "further comprising cleaning a substantial portion of any remaining material on said mesh-like substrate in response to said mesh-like substrate requiring cleaning." The abstract of Hirano refers to removing ink from a screen, and not the liquid or solid as recited by Applicant. Moreover, The Examiner provides no reference to a teaching in Hirano, but instead only a reference to a conclusionary comment in an Abstract as to why claim 17 has been rejected. If the Examiner maintains that claim 17 is not patentable in view of Hirano, Applicants respectfully request a specific teaching in Hirano in a non-final

Office Action, to properly determine whether Hirano teaches that which Applicant recites.

Accordingly, for any of these reasons claim 17 is patentable over Matsunaga in view of Hirano. Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejection of claim 17 be withdrawn.

Claims 19-21

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-21 are allowable for similar reasons as described with reference to claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, and 18.

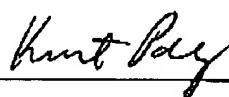
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of these claims in view of the above remarks. Applicant respectfully suggests that claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8-23 are patentable and are in condition for allowance.

Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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